

and came forward to register with the Federal Government. There is no security reason that DREAMers should not stay and continue contributing to our community and our local economies. There is no way to disguise that their deportation would just be the worst of what our country is all about. We have to protect them.

Being Members of Congress, it is so important that we step up, that we answer the call, and that we offer these young people the opportunity to continue to stay in our country, continue to work, go to school, and contribute so much because they have already given our country so much.

I urge my Republican colleagues to work with House Democrats to immediately pass the Dream Act. It is the only way we can provide peace of mind to nearly 150,000 DACA recipients in my home State of Texas.

#### CONGRATULATING MISS NORTH DAKOTA CARA MUND

(Mr. CRAMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Miss North Dakota Cara Mund, who was crowned Miss America last Sunday.

A native of Bismarck, Cara made history in our State when she became the first North Dakotan to be crowned Miss America. Throughout the competition, Cara shared her desire to make her home State proud, and boy did she do that, encouraging others to follow their dreams, saying: "... it doesn't matter where you come from geographically."

When asked what she hoped to gain from her year as Miss America, Cara said she is focused on what she can do for others. Cara has been giving back for years, having raised more than \$78,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation through her Passion for Fashion Show that she founded when she was just 14 years old.

As she travels the United States, I know she will inspire and impress everyone she comes in contact with. This former Capitol Hill intern plans to attend law school, become the first woman Governor of North Dakota, and perhaps even represent her State in Congress one day. I hope she waits a while. But anyway, Kris and I join all North Dakotans in congratulating our new Miss America.

We are proud of you, Cara, and we look forward to hearing the positive message you are going to be sharing throughout this Nation throughout the next year.

#### PROVIDING CRITICAL FINANCIAL AID

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of half a million students across the country who will lose access to critical financial aid without action by Congress.

Perkins loans are an important resource for low- and middle-income students. A majority of those receiving this aid come from families with household incomes less than \$30,000 a year. In my district alone, this program is used by students at Clarkson, Paul Smith's College, and SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Canton, and SUNY Plattsburgh.

Without congressional action, these students will lose access to these important loans after September 30 when this program expires. I have introduced H.R. 2482, the Perkins Loan Program Extension Act, that will reauthorize this aid for two more years. I have been grateful to receive support from 160 bipartisan cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that low-income students have access to a quality education, and the Perkins Loan Program is a critical tool to help them succeed. I urge the House to swiftly pass my bill before the end of the month.

#### RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW IN AMERICA

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government's first duty is to protect its citizens. For too long, dangerous gangs like MS-13 have exploited our Nation's immigration laws and made our communities less safe. Hoosiers are tired of it, and it is well past time to crack down on this illegal activity and restore the rule of law in America.

Today, the House passed a common-sense reform that does just that, ensuring violent gangs are kept off our streets. The Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act would allow law enforcement to detain and deport criminal alien gang members who pose a serious threat to our safety.

Instead of waiting on another tragedy, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement could remove these criminals before they have a chance to harm innocent Americans.

The bill would also prevent these criminals from ever entering the United States again. It is really just common sense. This bill will make America safer, and it is worthy of our support.

#### CONGRATULATING JOHNSON CITY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary

of the village of Johnson City in Broome County. Founded in 1892, Johnson City was first named Lestershire. The village was later renamed Johnson City in honor of George F. Johnson, a factory worker who rose through the ranks at the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company, a local manufacturing firm started in Binghamton in 1854.

Under Johnson's leadership, Endicott-Johnson evolved into an economic hub in the region. Through the square deal and his generosity to both the community and his employees, George Johnson played a pivotal role in shaping Johnson City into the village we know today.

Part of the Tri-Cities, Johnson City is now home to over 15,000 people and will soon be home to Binghamton University's School of Pharmacy.

On behalf of the entire 22nd District, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Johnson City on this landmark anniversary.

#### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION MUST EXPLAIN IMPROPER USE OF FUNDS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, a recent Federal audit found that the Obama administration improperly used, via the Bureau of Reclamation, \$84 million on California Governor Jerry Brown's pet project, the Delta tunnels. In planning, this is a project that would transfer water from northern California, where my district is, to southern California.

This comes after years of assurance that no tax dollars would be spent on the Governor's controversial legacy project, nor was there even an appropriation made by Congress to do so, and that is where the problem is. It is the illegal use of Federal dollars in the planning of this project.

Taxpayers ended up paying for a large portion of this project's planning costs without their knowledge and, again, without Congress' authorization, which is obviously unacceptable.

The Bureau of Reclamation needs to explain to Congress how and why this happened, and the employees and the appointees who carried it out must be held responsible.

More importantly, California needs to repay every penny to the Federal Government and the taxpayers of the other 49 States for this illegal use and improper use.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a small thing. Congress and the American people need to know what is happening with this and not be lied to.

□ 1230

#### TRIBUTE TO PAT HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 60